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Couple Sentenced for Income Tax Fraud

Today, Bryan D. Hoel and Amy L. Hoel were sentenced for multiple counts of state income tax fraud and bail jumping. Bryan Hoel was ordered to spend three years in prison, while Amy was ordered to spend two years and nine months in prison.

Judge Stephen Ehlke further sentenced Bryan and Amy Hoel to extended supervision of four years and two years, respectively. Judge Ehlke ordered the Hoels to pay all delinquent taxes, file all future tax returns in a timely manner, and pay court costs. A restitution hearing will be held in about 90 days.

According to the criminal complaint, from 1997-2005, Bryan and Amy Hoel received more than \$400,000 in income. However, they reported total income of \$3,574 on their income tax returns for those years.

The complaint also indicated that the Hoels filed trust returns in their own names for 1997, 1998, and 1999; and that Amy Hoel filed trust returns for 2000 and 2001. They reduced their trust income to zero or a negative number through using deductions. When the Department of Revenue requested each of them to provide supporting documentation, they did not provide any.

The couple was prosecuted by the Dane County District Attorney's office following an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. The Hoels were found guilty on May 26th at the conclusion of a two day jury trial.

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